



Selectmen approved a proposal by Acting Police Chief Donald Sjostedt to ticket out-of-town vehicles at this Bay Farm parking lot due to concerns about sexual offenders in the area. Photo by Josh Cutler

Duxbury and Kingston Police Target Sexual Predators at Bay Farm

By PAULA MAXWELL

Four arrests in less than a week at the Bay Farm conservation area off Landing Road have prompted police officials to wage a full-scale attack against sexual predators who police believe have relocated their activities from recently fenced rest areas along Route 3 in Norwell.

Acting Police Chief Donald Sjostedt, calling the problem "a most serious and dangerous situation," sought and received permission Monday night from selectmen and Town Manager Rocco Longo to ticket vehicles not belonging to Duxbury or Kingston residents in the Bay Farm parking lot, which is on the Duxbury portion of the Bay

Farm property.

Kingston Police Chief Gordon Fogg will ask permission from town officials there to ticket cars along River Rd. and near Cretinon's Farm, which also abuts the Bay Farm area.

The more than 80-acre Bay Farm conservation area is a large partially wooded area

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which is owned and managed cooperatively by Duxbury, Kingston and the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Management. It is used for passive recreation. There is a large gravel parking lot in the town of Duxbury suitable for approximately 20 vehicles located immediately off Landing Road. The area is a favorite spot for walkers and their dogs in particular.

Sjostedt said that the increased activity by sexual predators was noticed in the past week after two Duxbury teenagers reported that a man made sexual advances at the Bay Farm recreation area. That man is still at large.

Several weeks ago a Marshfield teenager was raped at the Route 3 rest area in Norwell. A Pembroke man, Kevin O'Donnell, 45, was arrested in connection with the rape and police are still looking for a second assailant.

Since then, the state highway department has put up fences separating the woods from the parking areas on both northbound and southbound sides of the highway.

That action has reportedly driven many of the people who frequent the rest areas to suburban locations.

Sjostedt said that sexual

predators find their way to other meeting places in secluded areas often times through the Internet.

Last Thursday, plainclothes detectives went into the Bay Farm area and one officer was immediately approached by a Marshfield man, Keith Kennedy, 44, who allegedly exposed himself and made sexual advances. Shortly after, another officer was approached by a Pembroke man, Rudiger Rottach, 54, who allegedly tried to sexually assault him. Both men were arraigned Monday in Plymouth District Court; Kennedy on charges of open and gross lewdness and Rottach on charges of indecent assault and battery, assault and battery and resisting arrest.

On Friday, police arrested Joseph Parise, 58, of Norwell and Robert Rockstraw, 38, of Carver in the area. Parise was charged with indecent assault and battery on a person 14 years or older and Rockstraw was charged with open and gross lewdness and indecent exposure.

Sjostedt said police are committed to eliminating the problem at Bay Farm and any other Duxbury area frequented by individuals he called predators.

"This is an area that should be safe for citizens to enjoy. We

will take every step necessary to eliminate the problem. These predators want to remain invisible. These restrictions will take that invisibility away," said Sjostedt.

He advised that citizens should avoid using the secluded woodland paths until the area is "cleaned up" and that children should not hang out there. He recommended walkers stay in the open field area until the problem is resolved and that any suspicious activity should be reported to police.

Sjostedt said the two towns plan to cover the area on a 24-hour basis to discourage any suspicious activity.

"This is one of the most dangerous assignments our officers handle. They must go into the woods without a weapon or radio and hope that back up is there to support them if needed," he said.

DPW Director Wally Tonaszuck will have restriction signs made for the parking areas.

Town Manager Rocco Longo said the town will do what ever is necessary to rid itself of this dangerous situation.

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